

March 20, 1967

Dr. Orville G. Brim, Jr.
Russell Sage Foundation
230 Park Avenue
New York, New York 10017

Dear Bert:

Even before Helmann, the person I really think you want to be in closest touch with on the background of therapeutic abortion is Dr. Edmund Overstreet, University of California Medical Center, Parnassus and Third Avenues, San Francisco.

Almost too obvious to have been thought of is documentation from the Swedish experience. All I have on that right now is in the enclosure. Some aspects of the numbers puzzle me, particularly the incidence of maternal mortality from illegal abortions. The advent of antibiotic therapy for sepsis has had a much more dramatic effect on mortality from this cause in more recent years. Most authorities quote a rate of induced abortion, legal or otherwise, that runs from fifteen to twenty percent of live births, but I have no idea how these statistics were obtained.

I am sure you will have noticed a report in the New York Times very recently about parallel efforts in Great Britain, and the dramatic change in sentiment that has taken place there.

Sincerely yours,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics

encl: Swedish Institute Report on Therapeutic Abortion
"9 Dr. Test Law"- JL 3/11
Per se - article on Therapeutic Abortion

BRIM